

9. The marker system of claim 8 wherein the markers are opaque to visible light.
10. The marker system of claim 8 wherein the markers are opaque to infrared light.
11. The marker system of claim 8 wherein the markers are opaque to ultraviolet light.
12. The marker system of claim 6 wherein the opaque markers are arranged in a pattern.
13. The marker system of claim 12 wherein the pattern forms a measuring index.
14. The marker system of claim 13 wherein the measuring index comprises a topographical index.
15. The marker system of claim 6 wherein the opaque markers comprise an ink.
16. The marker system of claim 15 wherein the ink is fluorescent.
17. The marker system of claim 16 wherein the ink is phosphorescent.
18. A balloon catheter comprising:
an elongate shaft having a lumen therein;
a balloon attached to a distal end of the shaft and in fluid communication with the balloon; and
a means for marking positioned on the balloon.
19. The means for marking of claim 18 further comprising opaque patterns.
20. The means for marking of claim 18 further comprising patterns which are opaque to light.
21. The means for marking of claim 20 further comprising patterns which are opaque to visible light.

22. The means for marking of claim 20 further comprising patterns which are opaque to infrared light.

23. The means for marking of claim 20 further comprising patterns which are opaque to ultraviolet light.

24. The means for marking of claim 18 further comprising ink.

25. The means for marking of claim 24 wherein the ink is fluorescent.

26. The means for marking of claim 24 wherein the ink is phosphorescent.

27. A method comprising:

inserting a catheter into a human body, the catheter comprising a shaft, a balloon mounted on a distal end of the shaft, and markers on the balloon;
advancing the balloon to a treatment site; and
visualizing the balloon relative to the human body using the markers.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using light.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using visible light.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using fluorescent light.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using infrared light.

32. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of visualizing the balloon relative to the human body further comprises using ultraviolet light.

33. The method of claim 27 wherein the markers further comprise a pattern of ink.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the ink is fluorescent.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein the ink is phosphorescent.

36. The method of claim 27 wherein the markers comprise a measuring index.

37. The method of claim 36 further comprising using the measuring index to determine a parameter of the human body or the balloon.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the parameter is the diameter of the balloon.

39. The method of claim 37 wherein the parameter is the topography of a body vessel.

40. The method of claim 37 wherein the parameter is the geometry of a restriction in a body vessel.

41. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of visualizing the human body further comprises inserting a visualization device into the catheter.

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42. The method of claim 41 wherein the visualization device comprises an angioscope.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/5/00



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